



Urmston Urban District Council

# Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the year

1946



# Urmston Urban District Council

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**Chairman of the Council, 1946-1947:**

**COUNCILLOR W. WROE, J.P.**

**HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1946-1947.**

*Chairman* : Councillor R. H. TOOTILL, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

*Vice-Chairman* : Councillor Mrs. B. E. BULL, J.P.

Councillor R. P. CARTWRIGHT, B.Sc. (Eng.).

„ C. G. DAWSON.

„ W. NEWTON.

„ MRS. R. V. ROYLE-HIGGINSON.

„ H. STEWART.

„ MRS. A. M. WILKINSON.

*Medical Officer of Health*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*

\* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors*

\* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

H. HOLDSWORTH, C.S.I.B.

(Commenced 1st September, 1946)

R. G. CHILD, C.S.I.

(Resigned 31st October, 1946)

\* Certified Meat and Food Inspector

*Public Health Department*

*Chief Clerk* : G. W. BLAKE

(H.M. Forces; resumed 6th May, 1946)

*Clerk* : M. LAMBERT

(H.M. Forces; resumed 14th January, 1946)

*Temporary Clerk* : Mrs. E. M. WILD

(Resigned 28th February, 1946)

*Immunisation Nurse and Clerk* :

Mrs. E. POWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Typist* : Miss B. HARRISON.



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# **REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR 1946**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The report deals with the year ending December 31st, 1946, and the arrangements of sections is the same as in previous reports, but the report has again been condensed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health. In some of the statistical tables given below figures are given for the sake of comparison for 1938, as being the last complete year before the war.

The infant mortality is one of the lowest recorded in recent years and there were no maternal deaths. The birth rate was the same as in the previous year; the number of illegitimate births is less than in 1945. The general death rate was greater than the mean for the previous five years. It is satisfactory to be able to record that no deaths occurred from diphtheria, measles, whooping cough or scarlet fever. The admissions to hospital for infectious disease numbered 38 during the year, a low figure. No confirmed case of diphtheria occurred in the district during 1946; since the end of 1943 there has been no case of diphtheria in a child under five years of age and only two cases amongst school children.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and consideration, and to my colleague, Mr. Wood, and to all members of the staff of the Health Department for their assistance in the compilation of this report, and to record my appreciation of their work during the year under review.

A. V. STOCKS,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports. The population is estimated by the Registrar General at 36,920, showing an increase of over 2,000 in the past two years. The following are the estimates by the Registrar General for the years stated:—

<i>Population.</i>	
1938 .....	32,030
1944 .....	34,910
1945 .....	35,140
1946 .....	36,920

**NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.**—The number of occupied houses at the end of 1938 was 10,530 and at the end of 1946 was 11,457. There has been an increase during the year of 252 houses occupied.

The occupied houses are distributed amongst wards as follows:—

Davyhume, East Ward ...	1662	
Davyhulme, West Ward ...	1715	
		Total ... 3377.
Flixton, East Ward .....	2221	
Flixton, West Ward .....	2122	
		Total ... 4343.
Urmston, North Ward ...	1222	
Urmston, South Ward .....	2515	
		Total ... 3737.

The rateable value is £369,687, and the product of a penny rate is £1,484 12s. 11d.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATE.**—Births registered numbered 650, representing a birth rate per thousand of the estimated population of 17.6.

The following table gives a comparison between the live birth rates in the Urban District, in the Administrative County Area and in England and Wales for the years indicated :

Year.	Urmston.	County Administrative Area	England and Wales.
1938	16.6	14.14	15.1
1944	21.5	18.64	18.0
1945	17.6	16.62	16.1
1946	17.6	—	19.1
Mean of 1941-1945 : 17.7.			

The following table gives total live births, illegitimate births and still-births for the years indicated.

Year.	Total Live Births.	Illegitimate Births.	Stillbirths.
1938	533	13	24
1944	752	23	16
1945	619	41	26
1946	650	35	19

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 30 per thousand live births against 29 in the previous year. The mean of the five years 1941-1945 was 52. The following table gives a comparison for the years indicated with the figures for the County Administrative area and for England and Wales :—

Year.	Urmston.	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	26	55	53
1944	49	46	46
1945	29	50	46
1946	30	—	43

The following table gives the death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births, together with the death rate of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live

births and the death rate of illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births, compared with the corresponding figures of 1944 and 1945 :—

	DEATH RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.		
	1944	1945	1946
All Infants .....	49	29	30
Legitimate Infants .....	49	27	26
Illegitimate Infants .....	43	48	114

There were thirty-five illegitimate infants born in 1946, of whom four died.

### NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

The following table gives the death rate of infants under the age of one month, per thousand live births, for each of the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Neo-Natal Mortality</i>
1942 .....	40.6
1943 .....	29.0
1944 .....	30.6
1945 .....	17.7
1946 .....	18.4

It is satisfactory to note the decrease since 1942 in the mortality rate of infants under the age of one month as this is a particularly sensitive index of the efficiency of ante-natal care and the care of small infants.

The following table gives for each of the past three years total births, total deaths of infants under one year of age, deaths within one month and deaths within three days of birth :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths under One Year.</i>	<i>Deaths within One Month.</i>	<i>Deaths within Three Days.</i>
1944	752	37	23	12
1945	619	18	11	5
1946	650	20	12	10



# CAUSES OF DEATH, 1944-1946.

CAUSES.	1944.		1945.		1946.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Respiratory ..	7	5	3	4	10	4
„ Non-Respiratory	2	1	2	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease .....	2	—	1	—	1	2
Influenza .....	—	3	—	—	3	1
Acute Encephalitis .....	2	2	1	—	—	1
Cancer .....	30	33	28	25	31	29
Diabetes .....	3	2	1	2	2	6
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .....	21	22	16	36	16	28
Heart Diseases .....	44	46	39	43	53	52
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	5	6	4	9	5
Bronchitis .....	12	12	13	10	23	6
Pneumonia .....	8	6	8	8	7	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	—	5	2	4	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	—	—	4	2	2	—
Diarrhoea (under 2) .....	1	4	—	2	1	1
Appendicitis .....	1	1	1	1	2	—
Other Digestive Diseases ..	2	5	6	2	4	5
Nephritis .....	3	3	6	1	3	4
Other Maternal Causes ...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth .....	3	5	1	1	3	2
Congenital Infantile Causes	9	10	5	5	3	1
Suicide .....	—	—	3	4	1	—
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	2	5	—	3	—
Other Violent Causes .....	3	1	5	3	1	5
All Other Causes .....	13	15	21	24	16	36
	<hr/> 173 185 <hr/>		<hr/> 180 180 <hr/>		<hr/> 198 201 <hr/>	

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is satisfactory to record that no maternal deaths were reported during 1946. The following table gives particulars of the maternal death rate for the years indicated :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Maternal Deaths per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Maternal Deaths per 1,000 Live and Still Births.</i>
1938	1.87	1.79
1944	2.65	2.60
1945	Nil.	Nil.
1946	Nil.	Nil.

Mean of five years, 1941-45 : 2.99; 2.88.

## GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The total number of deaths during the year was 399 compared with 360 in the previous year. The detailed analysis for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946, giving the causes of death for both sexes, is shown in an accompanying table.

The crude death rate for 1946 was 10.8. The following table gives the deaths per thousand of the estimated population for the years indicated for the Urmston Urban District and for England and Wales :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Urmston.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1938	9.1	11.6
1945	10.2	11.4
1946	10.8	11.5

Mean of five years 1941-1945 : 10.6.

It is satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred from measles, whooping-cough, scarlet-fever, diphtheria or cerebro-spinal-fever. The deaths from pneumonia number 12, this being the lowest figure since 1938. The mortality from cancer was a little higher, the deaths numbering sixty as against fifty-three the previous year, and the death rate was 1.62, this being the same as the mean for the five years 1941-1945. The deaths from heart-disease were the highest since 1940 and the deaths from diabetes (8) were the highest recorded in the district; both these figures are an indication of the increasing strain on the adult population.

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangement since the last report. The number of examinations carried out in 1946 was 215 made up as follows :

### SWABS :—

For Diphtheria .....	40
For Haemolytic Streptococi .....	1

FAECES .....	11
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### BLOOD :—

For Typhoid .....	6
For Malaria .....	1

### SPUTUM :—

For Tuberculosis .....	3
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### MILK :—

Tubercle Bacilli .....	58
Pathogenic Organisms—Culture (excluding T.B.) .....	4
Bacterial Count and B. Coli .....	52
Methylene Blue Reduction Test ..	12
Phosphatase Test .....	10
Milk Food .....	1
Ice-Cream .....	5

### WATER :—

Drinking .....	2
Swimming Bath .....	9

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of infectious cases other than smallpox, the ambulances of the Salford Corporation are available; for cases of smallpox the ambulance of the Bury and District Joint Board is available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident, or maternity patients, the Council maintains two ambulances at Bowfell Road Depot and a staff of drivers and attendants. The following table gives particulars of calls upon the ambulance service during the year.

1946	<i>Accident.</i>	<i>Sudden Illness</i>	<i>Maternity.</i>	<i>Other Causes.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Mileage.</i>
1st Qr. ...	32	14	23	220	289	2473
2nd Qr. ..	31	18	40	221	310	2467
3rd Qr. ...	49	11	32	220	312	2177
4th Qr. ...	37	14	35	236	322	1916
	<hr/> 149 <hr/>	<hr/> 57 <hr/>	<hr/> 130 <hr/>	<hr/> 897 <hr/>	<hr/> 1233 <hr/>	<hr/> 9033 <hr/>

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**

There has been no change in these arrangements since the last report.

It should however be recorded that acting as agents for the Lancashire County Council this Council set up a Domestic Home Help Scheme in January, 1946.

During the year 34 households were assisted under this scheme including 18 cases of sickness and 16 maternity cases.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**

These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows :—

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Davyhulme, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Road 2—4 p.m. Monday.  
 Flixton, "Alker Hall," Flixton Road ..... 2—4 p.m. Tuesday.  
 Urmston, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd. 2—4 p.m. Wednesday.

The number of attendances at these centres totals 11,712 during the year compared with 12,464 in the previous year.

2. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. These are held as under :—

"The Moorlands," Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, Friday afternoon.

Park Hospital, Moorside Road, Davyhulme :—

Monday, 2—4 p.m. First Booking Clinic.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal—subsequent visits.  
 2 p.m.—4 p.m. Post-natal.

Wednesday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal—subsequent visits.



Thursday, 1-30 p.m.—5 p.m. Antenatal Clinic.

Friday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal Clinic.

2 p.m.—5 p.m. First Booking Clinic.

The Consultative Midwifery Clinic held on each Monday offers a service to General Practitioners, who are desirous of the examination of their patients by the Obstetrician of the Hospital, with a subsequent report.

The patient need not necessarily be for admission to the Hospital for confinement.

(3) Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, Friday mornings and afternoons.

3. SCHOOL CLINIC, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Road, Davyhulme :—

Minor Ailments ..... Monday, 9-30 to 12 0 a.m.  
Dental, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy—by appointment. Orthopaedic cases are seen by appointment at the School Clinic, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead.

4. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at :—

1. 28 Gildabrook Road, Eccles.
2. 14 Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.

(e) **HOSPITALS — PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**

At the beginning of 1946, Park Hospital, Davyhulme, was re-opened after being in the hands of the War Office for over six years. At the commencement only Maternity Wards were opened, but after a few months Surgical and Medical Wards were made available and the Emergency Hospital at "Abbotsfield" was closed. The re-opening of the hospital has been a great boon to the district, particularly the increased accommodation for maternity and medical cases. The Urmston Cottage Hospital has continued to fulfil a useful function, especially in its provision for maternity patients.

(f) **REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.**—In the campaign for enrolments of Blood Donors in the autumn of 1944, over 1,000 donors were enrolled. The Regional Blood Transfusion Officer arranged for a mobile team to come into

the district from time to time during 1945-46 for the collection of blood from donors at special clinics arranged at "Collingwood," Davyhulme Road. The following particulars are an indication of the work done during the year:—

Sessions held during 1946 .....	9
Number of persons notified to attend .....	751
Number of attendances of Blood Donors ...	377
Total pints of blood collected .....	346

## **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER SUPPLY.**—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation; the quality is excellent and the quantity sufficient. Water is supplied from the public mains to 11,457 houses. No water is supplied by means of stand-pipes. One bacteriological examination and one chemical analysis was made during the year and the results were satisfactory. No liability to plumbo-solvent action has been noticed, nor any evidence as to contamination by lead.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS.**—The number of visits and inspections of premises during the year was 3,372 as against 3,041 for 1945. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 375, of which 346 were abated. Statutory Notices were served in 166 instances. Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**DISINFESTATIONS.**—Forty-six houses were found to be infested during the year and disinfestation was carried out in each case.

**DISINFECTIONS.**—The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 87 during the year under review.

## **SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

The number of new houses erected during the year is as follows:—

- (i) By the local authority: 76 permanent, 67 temporary.
- (ii) By other local authorities: Nil.
- (iii) By other bodies or persons: 87 new houses;  
41 war destroyed rebuilt.

There appears to be a waiting-list of between 1,500 and 2,000 people urgently requiring housing accommodation. In addition, there is also a considerable number of persons who have come to work in Trafford Park and who will need houses. In addition to this, the Council has also agreed to provide 1,250 houses for Manchester's "overspill." On December 31st, 1946, the Council had 226 permanent houses in hand and contemplates building within the next five to seven years some 2,500 houses, including those already completed, i.e., about 300. It is estimated that a further 500 will be built by Private Enterprise. In consequence of this and the rising birth rate it is probable that the population will increase from 37,000 to 48,000 in the next seven years.

## **SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **MILK SUPPLY.—**

(a) LICENCES : The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, have been issued to dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(i) Bottling .....	Nil
	(ii) Distributors .....	2

Accredited Milk—Nil.

Pasteurised Milk	(i) Plants .....	1
	(ii) Retail Distributors .....	3

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, ETC. :—

Monthly inspections of these premises were carried out and their condition was generally found to be satisfactory.

(c) FARMS.

There are 10 farms and about 190 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 26.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK :—

(1) Samples submitted for biological test number 62 of which 55 were satisfactory and 7 gave positive results.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological test number 64 of which 24 were unsatisfactory.

(3) Samples submitted for the phosphatase test number 10 of which 4 were unsatisfactory.



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Council. The County Medical Officer of Health supplies the following particulars regarding samples obtained under the Food and Drugs Act and states that 80 samples were obtained in the Urban district during 1946 of which 53 were milk. The 27 other samples comprised :—

2 Cheese	2 Butter
3 Cooking Fat	5 Margarine
3 Syrup	2 Dried Milk (Food)
1 Dried Milk	2 Lard
1 Custard Powder -	3 Sulphur Ointment
3 Ice Cream.	

The following adulterations, all of which were of milk samples, were recorded :—

Deficient 6 per cent fat. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 3 per cent fat. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 3 per cent fat. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 3 per cent fat. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 15 per cent solids—not-fat and contained 11 per cent extraneous water. Further samples obtained.

Deficient 3 per cent fat; 13 per cent solids-not-fat and contained 12 per cent extraneous water. Deficient 11 per cent fat; 15 per cent solids-not-fat and contained 16 per cent extraneous water. Prosecution—vendor fined £4 with £2 2s. 0d. costs.

Deficient 45 per cent fat. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 5 per cent. Further samples obtained.  
 Deficient 40 per cent and 44 per cent solids-not-fat and contained 5 per cent extraneous water. Prosecution—vendor fined £2 2s. 0d. with £1 1s. 0d. costs.

## **SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**—The number of notifications of infectious disease was approximately the same as in the previous year, the number being 410 against 423 in 1945. It is satisfactory to be able to report that no case of diphtheria occurred in the district and it may be noted that there was only one confirmed case in 1945. Scarlet-Fever cases notified were



51 as against 64 in the previous year and 105 in 1944. Cases of measles notified number 224 of which 166 occurred in the last month of the year, when the disease became epidemic in the district. It had been anticipated that such an outbreak would occur owing to the lapse of time since the previous visitation of measles and the fact that epidemics were already occurring in some of the neighbouring districts. Whooping-Cough shows a considerable reduction in the number of cases notified, these being 69 compared with 130 in the previous year. There were two cases of para-typhoid fever, five of dysentery and two of cerebro-spinal fever.

SCARLET FEVER.—Your Medical Officer has been of the opinion for some time that the mild type of case prevalent in the district is better nursed at home rather than in hospital, provided that proper isolation and nursing are available, and that there are no special reasons demanding hospital treatment. This view was put before the local medical practitioners at the beginning of 1944, and doctors were requested not to promise hospital treatment for cases of scarlet-fever without consultation with the Public Health Department.

The following table indicates for each quarter during the past two years the notifications of scarlet fever and admissions to hospital:—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospitals.</i>
1945.	1st. Quarter	33	12
	2nd „	16	5
	3rd „	5	1
	4th „	9	3
		—	—
	Totals ...	63	21
		—	—
1946.	1st Quarter	20	3
	2nd „	12	1
	3rd „	8	3
	4th „	11	2
		—	—
	Totals ...	51	9
		—	—

DIPHTHERIA.—The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria during the last nine years :—

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA AMONGST CIVILIANS.

Year	Under 5	5—14	15—19	20—34	35 and Over	Total
1938	11	23	5	3	3	45
1939	7	16	3	6	2	34
1940	4	8	—	6	—	18
1941	7	7	3	1	2	20
1942	1	8	2	6	—	17
1943	1	16	3	5	1	26
1944	—	2	1	—	—	3
1945	—	—	1	—	—	1
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—

The table shows a striking reduction in the incidence of diphtheria amongst children of pre-school age and it cannot be doubted that this is due to the intensive campaign which has been carried out in the district, and to the particular attention which has been given in recent years to children under five years of age. It has recently been decided to encourage the immunisation of infants at 9 or 10 months instead of leaving it until the child is one year old, on the ground that cases of diphtheria in children under the age of one year do occur and are apt to be very fatal.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—  
(Under the Council's Scheme)

Year.	School children	Children under School Age	Total
1937	397	55	452
1938	1,132	251	1,383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941	534	384	918
1942	504	588	1,092
1943	343	592	935
1944	312	229	541
1945	66	479	545
1946	76	524	600
	<hr/> 3,579 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,288 <hr/>	<hr/> 6,867 <hr/>

During the year, 44 sessions were held for immunisation at "Collingwood." No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the Clinics.

In addition to the facilities provided at these sessions at the Clinic, medical practitioners can be supplied free of cost with immunising materials for use in their surgeries for children resident in the district.

In order to reinforce the immunity of children who have been immunised four or more years previously a reinforcing dose has been advised at the end of four years. Cards have been distributed throughout the schools advising parents about this.

This Scheme has been in operation for three years, and the total number of children who had received a re-inforcing dose up to December 31st, 1946, was 1,788, made up as follows:—

1944 .....	703
1945 .....	467
1946 .....	618
	<u>1,788</u>

**SCABIES.**—The arrangements described in the last report are still available at "Collingwood." During the year 37 patients were treated for scabies at that centre.

#### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

The following table gives the new cases and mortality during 1946:—

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years—								
0—		1				1		
1—			1					
5—			1	1				
10—								
15—								
20—	1	2						
25—	5	3			2	1		1
35—	2	1			1			
45—	5				1	2		
55—	6	1			5			
65 and upwards	1				1			
Totals	20	8	2	1	10	4	—	1
	28		3		14		1	

The following table shows the death rates from Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1935 :—

1935 .....	0.32	1941 .....	0.23
1936 .....	0.27	1942 .....	0.37
1937 .....	0.49	1943 .....	0.40
1938 .....	0.40	1944 .....	0.34
1939 .....	0.38	1945 .....	0.19
1940 .....	0.37	1946 .....	0.37



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED, 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary and Cleansing Staffs for the year, 1946.

With the culmination of many war-time activities, it has at last been possible to commence some of the routine, but none the less important, work which has accumulated in the last few years. An inevitable slowing-down, however, resulted from staffing difficulties, of which not the least was that created by the general shortage of qualified Inspectors, and the restlessness and unease which appeared to affect particularly the younger members of the Department.

An attempt has been made to deal with some of the worst cases of disrepair to dwellinghouses by action under the Housing Acts, and whilst an ever-increasing amount of work is carried out under the provisions of the Public Health Acts, no real headway can be made until the two-fold problem of labour and materials has, to some extent, been solved.

The Cleansing Service has also passed through a difficult transition period, but it is gratifying to record that the regular collection of house and trade wastes has again reached the level the district enjoyed in pre-war years, and the returns of salvage collected and disposed of are such as would compare not unfavourably with any district of like size and circumstance.

The work of this section of the Public Health Department, of which a brief outline is set out in the following pages, would not have been possible but for the support and consideration received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Stocks, to all members of the staff and workpeople for the help and co-operation I have received during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

WM. WOOD,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.*

### COMPLAINTS.

Total number of complaints received .....	408
Total number of nuisances confirmed .....	375
Total number of visits (including re-visits) .....	1139

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Number Received</i>	<i>Confirmed.</i>
Housing Defects	264	244
Obstructed Drains	49	49
Overcrowding	12	2
Accumulations	11	11
Vermin	11	11
Animals So-Kept	7	7
Dirty Premises	5	5
Flooding	5	5
Atmospheric Pollution	3	3
Rats and Mice	40	37
Noise	1	1
Total ...	408	375

### ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The following notices were served during the year :—

<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
365	166

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 155 (3).* Occupation of premises in contravention of a Clearance Order. Defendant found guilty. Fine and costs, £2 11s. 0d.

*Byelaws relating to Houses Let in Lodgings.* Proceedings instituted for non-compliance of above. Defendant found guilty. Fine and costs, £6 3s. 0d.

## INSPECTIONS.

The following tabular statement shows the number of visits and inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors during the past year :—

Accumulations .....	30
Animals, Etc. ....	37
Farms .....	26
Dairies .....	67
Drainage Dork (New Buildings) .....	222
Drainage Work (Existing Buildings) .....	124
Dwellinghouses—re Complaints .....	852
„    —Overcrowding .....	28
„    —Infectious Disease .....	116
„    —Dirty or Verminous .....	45
„    —Clearance Areas, Etc. ....	133
Council House Applications .....	20
Factories—Mechanical and Non-Mechanical .....	68
„    —Bakehouses .....	12
Food Premises .....	67
Houses-Let-in-Lodgings .....	45
Ice-cream Premises .....	94
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, Etc. ....	39
Markets, Fairs, Etc. ....	52
Public Conveniences .....	215
Shops .....	15
Rats and Mice .....	54
Petroleum .....	75
Smoke Abatement .....	15
Offensive Trades .....	2
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip .....	489
„    „    —Other Visits .....	210
Miscellaneous .....	220
<hr/>	
Total ...	3,372
<hr/>	

## HOUSING.

<i>Housing Defects (Detailed Analysis)</i>			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Recorded</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
Roofs	103	86	17
Dampness	60	47	13
Floors	34	28	6
Walls	106	81	25
Woodwork	41	40	1
Ceilings	37	37	—
Eavesgutters, R.W.P.'s, Etc.	98	86	12
W.C.'s, Soil Pipes, Etc.	22	20	2
Sinks, Lavatory Basins	12	12	—
Yards	14	12	2
Fireplaces, grates	30	28	2
Water Supplies	25	24	1
Total ...	582	501	81

A general survey of working-class property was made during the year, in order to ascertain : —

- (a) The number of dwellinghouses which in view of their condition should be dealt with by way of demolition.
- (b) The number of dwellinghouses which, whilst not coming within the former category, required repair or reconditioning in order to bring them up to the present-day standard.

From this survey it became evident, that unless the position with regard to labour and building materials becomes easier at an early date, a large number of houses which could have been classified as being capable of repair, will inevitably fall into the lower group.

Overcrowding has shown a decided increase during the past year, but with the active assistance of the Housing Department, some of the worst cases have been successfully dealt with.



### FOOD INSPECTION.

As food is still in short supply, greater care than ever has been taken by the Food Inspectors in judging its fitness for human consumption. In the majority of cases when condemnation was necessary, the commodities in question were returned to the Ministry of Food for reprocessing or use in animal feeding.

The following is a list of all foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the past year and subject to voluntary surrender:—

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Quantities.</i>		
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat (Butchers') .....	—	3	0	18
Dried Fruits .....	1	1	3	12
Bacon and Hams, Etc .....	—	—	1	13
Butter .....	—	—	—	13
Chocolate .....	—	—	—	6
Fish (wet) .....	—	1	2	11
Flour .....	—	2	2	23
Cereals .....	—	1	—	—
Sugar .....	—	2	—	—
Total ...		1	12	3 12
Meat (canned) .....	78 tins			
Fish „ .....	113 „			
Milk „ .....	47 „			
Vegetables (canned) .....	71 „			
Jam (canned) .....	107 „			
Soup (canned) .....	80 „			
Fruit (canned) .....	674 „			
Eggs .....	45			
Milk .....	72 gallons			

All premises used for the preparation of food were regularly visited during the year by one of the Food Inspectors.

## MILK CONTROL.

The past year has seen a continued improvement in the milk supply to the district, and there is little doubt that this is largely due to a greater percentage of milk sold being subjected to pasteurisation.

There are ten milk producers in the area, twenty-five persons are registered as purveyors of milk, or dairymen, and during the year the Council granted two licences for the sale within the district of tuberculin tested milk. One plant has been licenced for the production of Pasteurised Milk (H.T.S.T.), the dairyman in question dealing with 1,500 to 2,000 gallons of raw milk per day.

An interesting development in connection with milk production, is a Council decision to establish at the earliest opportunity a model farm. Plans are in the course of preparation for the concentration of two small farms in the ownership of the Council, together with the erection of the most modern buildings and plant available on an approved site. The farmer in occupation has already commenced to build up a herd of "Attested Cattle."

Samples of milk taken during the year are as follows :—

Biological (T.B. etc.)			Bacteriological (Plate Count & B. Coli.)			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.
62	7	55	52	34	18	12	6	6	10	6	4

## ICE-CREAM.

Of the 12 registered ice-cream manufacturers in the district, eight use a hot mix and four a cold.

The conditions under which ice-cream is manufactured are generally very satisfactory, and regular visits are made to all premises.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are, in all, in the district 20 registered bakehouses, none of which are underground.

All the premises can be said to be satisfactorily maintained.

## **FACTORIES.**

Although Urmston is by and large a residential area, nevertheless a large part of the Trafford Park industrial area lies within its boundaries, and the extensive undertakings there situated give rise to many special and difficult problems.

Owing to the shortage of inspectoral staff, it has not been possible to carry out the routine and necessary inspections in connection with these factories, but an improvement in the future is to be expected.

Factories on the register include :—

Mechanical 111; Non-Mechanical 26.

Seven notices in connection with the above have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and nine informal and three statutory notices have been served by the Department.

Outworkers' Premises :— Two firms in the district employ outworkers. The homes of all outworkers resident in the district are regularly visited by the sanitary staff, and generally these have been found satisfactory.

No case of infectious disease has arisen in any of these houses.

## **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The following trades are on the register of the Department :

Soap Boilers .....	2
Gut Scraping .....	1

## **ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

The amount of work carried out in this connection has been curtailed by staff shortage. In all, twelve observations were recorded and warning letters issued in three cases.

A complaint which caused the Department a great deal of concern during the year was the emission of residual from a large factory in Trafford Park engaged in the manufacture of soap and soap powder. The material in question was in powder form and had a strong alkali reaction.

From time to time when the plant was in operation an emission of this powder was deposited over a wide area, affecting particularly an adjoining County Borough.

After many consultations with the Engineering Staff at the works, experiments and alterations were made which appear to have effectively dealt with the nuisance.



### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 116 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to houses, etc., in connection with cases of infectious disease and 87 disinfections were carried out together with the removal of 28 lots of bedding for steam disinfection.

### DISINFESTATION.

In recent years there has been a marked decline in the number of vermin-infested houses in the district. During the period under review 46 premises were treated by application of a contact insecticide.

### MORTUARY.

The Flixton mortuary maintained by the Department has been in use 23 times for the reception of bodies. I am indebted to the County Police for the following details:—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Natural Causes .....	20
Suicide .....	1
Street Accidents .....	1
Open Verdict .....	1

### PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Sixty-four licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and five licences for Calcium Carbide were granted, and fees received in this connection amounted to £64.

All the premises are regularly inspected.

### SHOPS ACTS, 1912-36.

It has only been possible to carry out a bare minimum of inspections in this connection; it can be said, however, that conditions in local shops are fairly satisfactory.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public Conveniences maintained by the Department:—

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Station Road	2 W.C.'s, 6 urinal stalls.	3 W.C.'s.
Davyhulme Circle	2 W.C.'s, 3 „ „	3 W.C.'s.
Moorside Road	1 W.C., 1 „ „	2 W.C.'s.
Church Road	2 W.C.'s, 3 „ „	3 W.C.'s.

Two full-time attendants are employed on cleansing, maintenance and supervision.



## RODENT CONTROL.

The work of rat destruction continued throughout the year. Two rodent operatives were engaged on this section of the Department's activities.

The main items of note during the period under review were :—

- (a) The completion of the treatment of the Trafford Park area.
- (b) The treatment of all water courses in the area.

Summary of Action taken to deal with surface infestations :—

		MAJOR		MINOR
No. of Infestations Treated	...	20		71
Estimated No. of kills	...	3,621		505
Total No. of bodies recovered		413		80
Poisons used.	Zinc Phosphide	...	...	51 lbs.
	Arsenic	...	...	3½ "
	Red Squill	...	...	8¾ "
Bait Used	Sausage Rusk	...	...	12 cwts.
				No. of baits laid approx. 11,420.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the war years the district's cleansing service inevitably suffered by the many and varied calls on its manpower. Whilst the young men were being called to their country's defence the older employees and the nondescript replacements available showed many signs of strain and fatigue due to long hours, broken sleep and unaccustomed duties. In spite of all this, however, it should be recorded, to the credit of a class of men often forgotten, that the service never once broke down, and throughout the long conflict was maintained at a fairly high level of efficiency.

As the Officer responsible for this service, I would like to pay my tribute to these veterans and to say how proud I am to have been associated with them.

The past year has seen the return of all regular workmen to the Department, and the collection of refuse has been restored to its previous frequency. The labour problem is still somewhat difficult, however, but with a betterment of service conditions and a wider public appreciation of the work of the cleansing employees, an improvement is looked for in the future.

The Department's transport was augmented early in the year by the acquisition of two new "Dennis" side-loading vehicles of 10 cubic yards capacity, but it will be a considerable time before new vehicles can be obtained to raise the level of efficiency of the fleet to a degree commensurate with the importance of its functions.

Transport at present in service is as follows :—

2 Morris 7 cubic yards side-loaders .....	(1933)
1 S.D. Gully Emptier .....	(1937)
1 Scammel 6 cubic yards side-loader .....	(1938)
1 Scammel 12 cubic yards rear-loader .....	(1940)
1 Morris 2 ton lorry (acquired 1941 second-hand)	
2 Dennis 10 cubic yard side-loaders .....	(1946)

In the district at present there are 12,176 dustbins, 17 pail closets, 2 dry ashpits, and 7,541 street gullies. Dustbins and pail closets were emptied once weekly, ashpits as frequently as necessary, all street gullies were emptied and cleansed on three occasions during the year.

The total weight of domestic refuse collected with 9,775 tons, and the weight of refuse of all types disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 17,306 tons.

Of the 534 galvanised iron dustbins supplied by the Department, 417 were sold to owners of private houses and 117 were provided for Council properties. Notices served included 97 informal and 44 formal.

### CLEANSING COSTS.

Net Expenditure	...	Refuse Collection.	£5,760.
"	"	Disposal.	£1,011.
Net cost per ton	...	Collection 11/9.4	} — 13/10.2.
		Disposal 2/0.8	
Net cost per thousand population		Collection £156 0s. 4d.	} — £183 8s. 0d.
		Disposal £27 7s. 8d.	
Net cost per thousand houses		Collection £502 15s. 0d.	} — £590 19s. 10d.
		Disposal £88 4s. 10d.	
Tonnage of Domestic Refuse	...	...	9,775 tons.
Tonnage of All Refuse	...	...	17,306 tons.
Amount of Refuse per 1,000 population	...	...	264 tons.
Product of a penny rate	...	...	£1,484 12s. 11d.
Net expenditure on collection and disposal expressed as rate poundage	...	...	4.5607d.
Number of houses in the district	...	...	11,457.
Population	...	...	36 920 (est.)

N.B.—Income from the sale of Salvage is excluded from the above.

### SALVAGE.

With the cessation of hostilities there was an immediate and disastrous falling-off in the yield of salvage from ordinary households. The widespread feeling that now the war had ended anything connected with it was best forgotten seemed very much in evidence.

As the seriousness of the country's financial and economic position became clearer, a gradual improvement was noticed in the salvage yield, but this improvement by no means recovered the ground previously lost.

Comparative figures show that the people of Urmston have no cause to be ashamed of the results achieved since the inauguration of the salvage effort in 1940, but whilst it may be



useful and helpful to take stock of the present position the time for the winding-up of the effort has not yet been reached, and it becomes only too apparent that greater emphasis than ever will be placed on the recovery of waste materials in the future.

The following brief statement shows the results of the salvage effort up to date:—

WASTE MATERIALS RECOVERED, INCLUDING KITCHEN WASTE.					
<i>Year.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1940 .....	454 .....		1,684	—	—
1941 .....	769 .....		2,523	—	—
1942 .....	1,170 .....		4,350	—	—
1943 .....	1,020 .....		4,248	—	—
1944 .....	852 .....		3,742	—	—
1945 .....	703 .....		3,088	—	—
1946 .....	763 .....		3,531	—	—
Total ...		5,731	23,166	—	—

TOTAL WEIGHT OF MATERIALS RECOVERED.	
<i>Materials</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Kitchen Waste .....	1,959
Waste Paper .....	2,698
Tins .....	391
Textiles .....	176
Bottles and Jars .....	163
Scrap Metal .....	214
Bones .....	47
Miscellaneous .....	83
Total ...	
5,731	









